

# School Counselor UPDATES

Pennsylvania  
Department of Education

## November 2025

### FOOD INSECURITY RESOURCES

#### PA NAVIGATE

As the holidays approach, as many as 1 in 8 Pennsylvania families may find themselves in need of food assistance. Here are some resources that may help:

**PA Navigate** connects Pennsylvanians with health and social care services in their local community. **Find help now** with food, housing, utilities, transportation and more by entering your zip code.

**Findhelp** also identifies [free or reduced-cost resources](#) like food, housing, financial assistance, health care, and more by zip code.

**Feeding America** supports a [search directory of participating food banks](#).

The **Housing Shelter Directory** is available by state. [Pennsylvania's resources](#) are listed [here](#).

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities released [A Quick Guide to SNAP Eligibility and Benefits](#) which details key eligibility changes and the impact of the government shutdown.

#### FACT

## 1 in 5 Children

Over 13 million kids don't  
have enough food to grow up  
strong.

source: Feeding America

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES



**ASCA AFFINITY GROUP**  
POSTSECONDARY

Join us at our next meeting!

**NOV. 10**  
**3:30 PM ET**

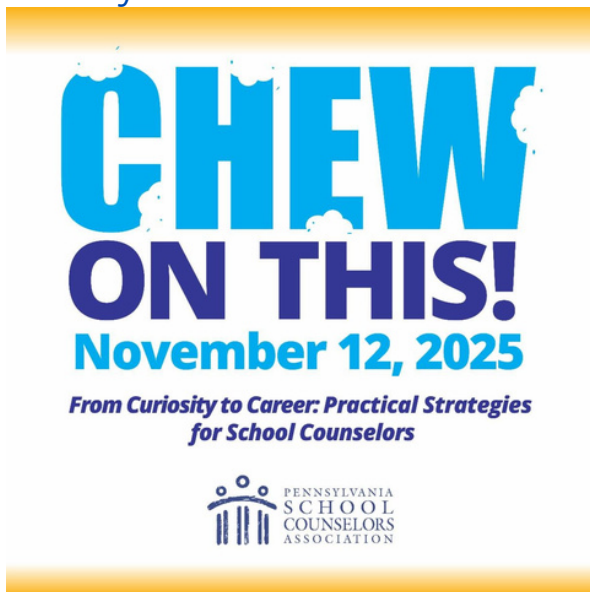
More information, visit [schoolcounselor.org](http://schoolcounselor.org).

**Discussion Topic**  
What Students Need Now:  
Strong Advising, Complete FAFSAs,  
and Clear Next Steps

**Featured Speakers:**

- Bill DeBaun  
Senior Director, Data and Strategic Initiatives NCAN
- Alessandra Cipriani-Detres  
Senior Associate, Strategic Initiatives NCAN
- Dr. Janice Bloom  
Co-Executive Director, CARA
- Dr. Many Savitz-Romer  
Nancy Pforzheimer Aronson Senior Lecturer,  
Human Development and Education  
Harvard Graduate School of Education

[ASCA has opened registration for this important conversation to non-members. I hope to see you there!](#)



**CHEW**  
**ON THIS!**  
**November 12, 2025**

*From Curiosity to Career: Practical Strategies  
for School Counselors*

 PENNSYLVANIA  
SCHOOL  
COUNSELORS  
ASSOCIATION



JOIN PSCA FOR OUR  
**PLATINUM**  
*Conference*

70 YEARS OF IMPACT  
AND INSPIRATION

★ ★ ★  
**DECEMBER 4-5, 2025**

THE PENN STATER HOTEL  
& CONVENTION CENTER  
STATE COLLEGE, PA

 PENNSYLVANIA  
SCHOOL  
COUNSELORS  
ASSOCIATION

[Early bird registration is available until November 30, 2025.](#)

# SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Check out **Sesame Street's** fun [games](#), [videos](#) and [art opportunities](#)!



**Edutopia** published [Activating High School Students' Social and Emotional Competencies](#), which asserts that students experience greater self-awareness and personal success when they can understand and regulate their emotions.



**CASEL** recorded a webinar, [Emotion Regulation: The Missing Key to Future Readiness – From Classrooms to Careers](#).

Welcome to:

## EMOTION REGULATION:

The Missing Key to Future Readiness – From Classrooms to Careers

Thursday, September 25 @ 3pm ET A CASEL webinar

|                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Moderator</b></p>  <p><b>Dr. Aaliyah A. Samuel</b><br/>President and CEO,<br/>CASEL</p> | <p><b>Speakers</b></p>  <p><b>Dr. Marc Brackett</b><br/>CASEL Board Member;<br/>Director, Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence</p> |  <p><b>Rich Hua</b><br/>Worldwide Head of EPIC Leadership,<br/>Founder of EQ@Amazon</p> |  <p><b>Fran Rabinowitz</b><br/>Executive Director,<br/>CAPSS</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**The Hill** has published an op-ed, [Why millions are failing college math — and how to fix it](#), noting “For decades, mathematics — particularly college algebra — has functioned less as a bridge to opportunity than as a barrier to completion. Nationally, college algebra is one of the most common stumbling blocks to degree completion, with high failure and withdrawal rates that disproportionately affect first-generation and non-white students.

“Research shows that arts integration in early grades promotes development in engineering, literacy, numeracy and the arts. STEAM education has been shown to support key skills like active learning, social and emotional learning, divergent thinking and cultural competency — offering an innovative approach to support student learning and growth.” **The Education Commission of the States** published [Key Lessons From Effective K-12 STEAM Education Organizations](#).

**Boston University’s Wheelock College of Education and Human Development** wonders [What’s Next for English Learners in the US Now That English is the Official Language?](#)

Ninth grade is a vulnerable transition point for students and a time when many fall off the graduation path. **Washington State** has published a [Ninth-Grade On Track System Improvement Guide](#).



Assisting Students  
Experiencing Education Instability

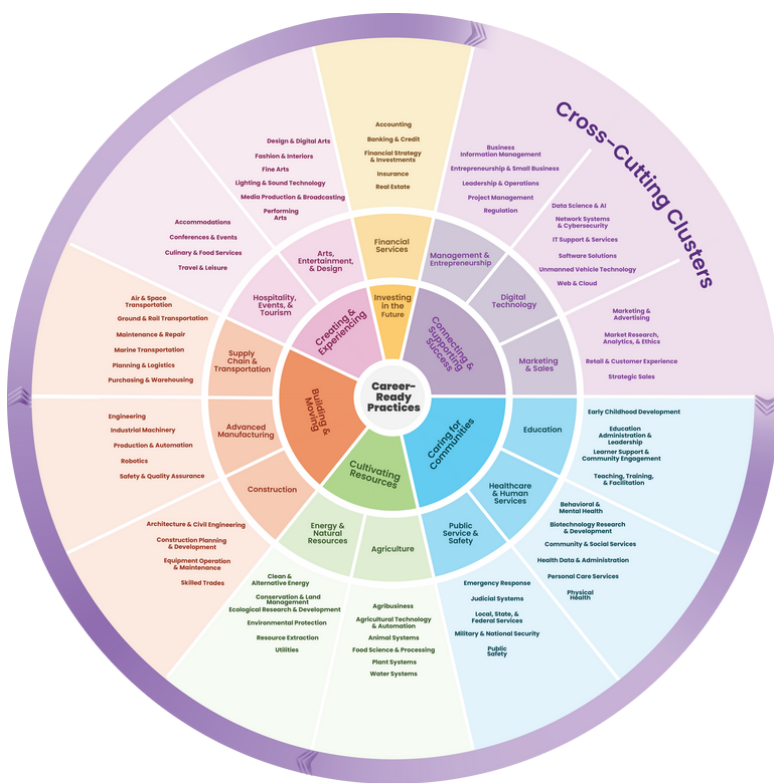
The **Center for Schools and Communities**, in partnership with the **Pennsylvania Department of Education**, has published the [Graduation Plan Toolkit](#) to support students with *Act 1 of 2022: Assisting Students Experiencing Education Instability* designation.



# COLLEGE AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

**The University of Pennsylvania** has released [free search guides aimed at helping students navigate the college search process](#)—for applying to Penn or any school. From narrowing down college list to keeping track of upcoming application deadlines, this series of guides will get students ready to apply to college.

**Education Strategy Group's (ESG)** new [Building Better Outcomes: A District Playbook for Effective Postsecondary Data Practice](#) offers a practical, district-centered guide to building a coherent, student-focused data ecosystem. This playbook sits squarely alongside both the [recently-released definition of high-quality advising](#) and the [District Enabling Conditions Framework](#): leadership commitment, aligned infrastructure, and data-driven practice are all enabling conditions that allow students to receive advising that is personalized, equitable, and connected to real outcomes.



**Advance CTE's** newly published [Career Clusters Framework](#) has a bevy of resources available to school counselors including 30 Career Ready Practices.



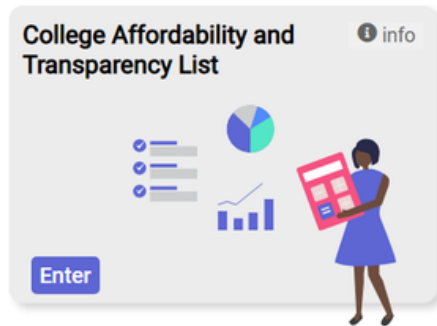
Use digital skills &  
technologies to enhance  
productivity & make  
data-informed decisions

# COLLEGE AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

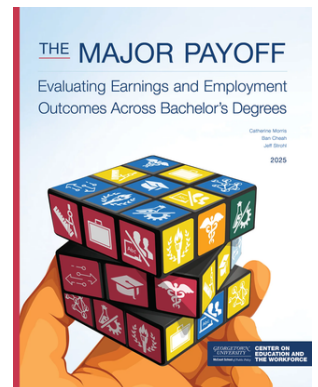
**The National College Attainment Network (NCAN)** has published [Six Findings on Americans' Views of Higher Education](#), based on [New America's 9th annual Varying Degrees survey](#) on higher education, which collected data from 1,600 adults with Democratic and Republican viewpoints to identify similarities and differences between the two groups across six key themes.

**Edtrust** has released [Mapping Postsecondary Pathways: Understanding State Student College Enrollment Trends](#).

The [College Affordability and Transparency Center](#) was created by the **U.S. Department of Education** to meet requirements in the Higher Education Opportunity Act and to provide better information to student and parent consumers about college costs.



**Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce** pondered whether obtaining a bachelor's degree is worth it. The evidence says yes: Prime-age workers with a bachelor's degree earn 70 percent more at the median than workers with a high school diploma alone. However, median earnings vary significantly by major for prime-age workers, from \$58,000 in education and public service fields to \$98,000 in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. [The Major Payoff: Evaluating Earnings and Employment Outcomes Across Bachelor's Degrees](#) provides insight into key outcomes associated with various undergraduate fields and majors for prime-age workers (ages 25–54) and recent college graduates (ages 22–26), including median earnings, the graduate degree earnings premium, and unemployment rates.



## HIGHMARK. CARING PLACE finding hope in grief

*1 in 20 students will lose a parent before they graduate from high school.*

The death of a loved one is devastating to a child. The impact can be overwhelming and the children and family often need support. **The Highmark Caring Place** can provide that support through its various programs.

**The Caring Place** began in Pittsburgh in 1996. Facilities are also located in Erie, Harrisburg, and Warrendale, Pennsylvania.

Thousands of community members are helped by the **Caring Place** each year at no cost through peer support programs, and education, consultation, and referral services.

**The Caring Place** provides resources to support Children's Grief Awareness Day events at schools at no cost.



*The publication's content does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the PDE, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the PDE.*

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